

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 - Expedited Examining Procedure

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Serial No.: 09/847,670

Confirmation No.: 4815

Filed: May 2, 2001

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS HELICASE CRYSTALS, CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE AND METHODS**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed December 9, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 32-34 and 36-37 having been canceled, claims 31, 35, 42-43, 47-52, and 58-59 having been amended, and claims 60-61 having been added, the pending claims are claims 31, 35, 38-43, and 47-61. Claims 31, 35, and 47-48 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 31 and 33 have been amended to delete the recitation "molecule or molecular complex." Claims 31, 33, and 58-59 have been amended to recite that "the amino acid sequence of the Hepatitis C virus helicase is SEQ ID NO:1," which is supported, for example, by originally filed claims 39 and 41. Claims 42 and 49-52 have been amended to recite crystalline Hepatitis C virus helicase or a crystal that "effectively diffracts x-rays to a resolution of 1.5 Å to 3 Å," which is supported by the specification at, for example, page 30, line 17 ("1.5-3 Å resolution x-ray data"), page 13, line 29 ("2.0 Å resolution"), and page 14, line 1 ("1.8 Å data"). Claim 43 has been amended to depend from any of claims 38-41. Claim 47 has been amended to recite a "unit cell containing two molecules in an asymmetric unit," which is supported, for example, by originally filed claim 38. Claim 48 has been amended to recite a "unit cell containing one molecule in the asymmetric unit," which is supported, for example, by originally filed claim 40.

New claims 60-61 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 40, lines 6 and 25, respectively.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank Examiners Carolyn L. Smith and Ardin H. Marschel for granting a telephone interview to Applicants' Representatives, Loren D. Albin and Ann M. Mueting, on February 10, 2004.

The rejection of claims 55-57 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly including new matter and lacking enablement, was discussed. First, the Examiner considered the

interview
summary
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